

THE REHEARSAL.

1. What was Sworn to be a *Warrant*, was only a *Certificat*.
2. Two *Clergy-Men* only *Prosecuted*, when ther were *Eight* that *sign'd* it.
3. Why the *Prosecution* was so Long *Deferr'd*.
4. The short *Notice* given of the *Prosecution*.
5. The *Certificat* *Providentially* *Retriev'd*.
6. Upon which some of the *Affidavit-Men* gave Back.
7. But *Others* Stuck to it.
8. Mr. *Tendal* the *Mayor* came in against the *Clergy-Men*.
9. The whole of this wou'd make a *Narrative*.
10. The *Ruin* of these *Clergy Men* was *Design'd*.
11. And *Intended* to *Influence Elections*.
12. The *Consequence* of this, if not *Minded*.

SATURDAY, November 2. 1706.

Country-man. **Y**OU gave us in your last, *Master*, the *Fact* of the *Business* at *Oakhampton*. And you *Promis'd* something *Extraordinary* in the *Manner* of the *Prosecution*.

(1.) *Rehearsal*. First let me *Observe*, That the *Certificate* I gave you in my last, (and which is *File'd* in the *Queens Bench*, to which the two *Clergy-Men* *Accus'd* *Sign'd* as *Witnesses*) was no *Pres's Warrant*, or any *Warrant* at all, but a *Bare Certificat* that *Captain C* had *Pres'd* this *Quint*. And this might have been made use of in *Favour* of *Quint*, and against the *Captain*, if the *Captain* had *Pres'd* him *Illegally*. But that it seems was not the *Design* of the *Prosecution*. For how wou'd this have *Blacken'd* the *Clergy*?

In order to which, this *Certificat* was *Sworn* into a *Warrant*, And these *Clergy-Men* *Accus'd* for *Signing* it as *Justices* of the *Peace*, upon which there was *Five Hundred Pounds* *Penalty*.

(2.) In the next place, *How* came these two *Clergy-men* only to be *Accus'd* and *Expos'd* in the *Review*? When ther were *Eight* that *Sign'd* the *Certificat*, 4 *Clergy-Men* and 4 *Lay-Men*; But Mr. *Roberts* and Mr. *Hussy* were *Singl'd* out to be *Whigg-Hunted*, because they were *High-Church-Men*, and for *Example* sake!

(3.) *Country-m*. But I have one *Objection*. Since the *Whiggs* knew that this *Certificat* must *Appear* upon the *Trial*, and *Appear* to be no *Warrant*, and consequently the *Signing* it as a *Witness*, not to be *Acting* in any sort as a *Justice of Peace*; Why then wou'd they bring on the *Prosecution*, wherein they were sure to be *Buff'd*?

Rehears. O, *Country-man*, thereby hangs a *Tail*. They were aware of this. And had they *Immediately* brought on the *Prosecution*,

this must have *Appear'd*. Therefore they *Deferr'd* it, for full 3 *Quarters* of a *Year*. In which time as the whole matter, not being very *Material*, might have been *Forgot*; and so these *Clergy-men* less *Capable* to make their *Defence*, or bring *Witnesses*; so it was a *Hunder'd* to one whether the *Captain* (a *Young* man) had so long kept a *Scrap* of *Paper* which *Signify'd* *Nothing*. Besides the *Fleet* was soon *Expected* to *Sail*, wherein he was to go on *Board*, and so had been out of the way. And before *Notice* was given of the *Prosecution* he was actually at *Plymouth*, waiting only for the *Wind* to *Sail* for *Spain*.

(4.) And the short *Notice* of the *Prosecution* (contriv'd on *Purpose*) hardly gave these *Clergy-Men* time to think of this *Certificat* (which they might have forgot) or of any thing else for their *Defence*. And they had been *Ruin'd* but for a *Providential* *Interposition*, which I come to tell you. And it was thus,

Some *Gentlemen* in *London*, and others in the *Country*, having *Concerted* this *Prosecution* with the utmost *Secrecy*, *Contriv'd* and gave orders to an *Attorney* to give *Verbal* *Notice* to Mr. *Hussy* and Mr. *Roberts*, on *Saturday* the 19th. of *January*, that the *Wednesday* immediately following a *Motion* wou'd be made in the *Queens Bench* for an *Information* against them, for *Irregular Practices* in the *Impressing* of *Quint*. And the *Attorney* was *Order'd* the very self same *Day*, to get the *Affidavit* made before the *Mayor* of *Oakhampton*; and *Dispatch'd* to *London*, and *Oakhampton* being near two *Hundred Miles* from *London*, it was *Impossible* for them to make *Provision* for their *Defence*. And they liv'd at some *Distance* from *Each* other, But here *Providence* *Interpos'd*, and the *Malice* of the *Whiggs* over-*Reach'd* it self, for the then *Mayor* of *Oakhampton*, not being a *Master* in *Chancery*,

Chancery, was not a Proper Officer to take the Affidavit. Yet Malice did not Cease or Stop. For the Day after the first Return of the Post, which was Monday the 28th, Notice was given to Mr. Roberts &c. in Scriptis, that the very Wednesday following the Motion for the Information would be made. Here they had less Time allow'd them than Before. And had they not after the first Alarm taken Care to Entertain Mr. K—g for their Council, the next thing had been an Attachment out against them. But he, tho' with Difficulty, Obtain'd time for them to the first Day of the following Term to shew Cause why the Information shou'd not lie against them.

(5.) In the mean time these Gentlemen went to Plymouth, to see if they Cou'd overtake Captain C— who had for some time waited there only for the Wind. And by Good Providence they found him there, and he had not Lost the Certificat, but gave it them, and Attested on the backside of it, before two Witnesses, under his Hand, That this and no other is the Paper, Sign'd at Oakhampton by the Prosecuted Gentlemen at the Impressing of Quint.

When this was Produc'd in Court, the Prosecution did Appear most Malicious and Wicked. And the Clergy-Men were Dismist.

(6.) Let me here Add, that when it was Understood the Certificat was Recover'd, several of the Whigg-Affidavit-Men began to Draw in their Horns, and some who were before Ready to Swear, then Refus'd it. And one of the well-wishers to the Prosecution unwarily Dropt words to this Effect, *Pox on't 'twas not well tim'd, they shou'd have stay'd till the Captain had been gone, and then.*—

(7.) However they had Affidavit Men who Swore thorough stich, as they were Directed. Two of them Swore in these words, *That JEREMIAH HUSSY &c. did then and there Subscribe their Names, AS JUSTICES OF THE PEACE, to the said Instrument.* Yet one of these set his Mark for his Name (such Fellows they pickt up) and we must suppose he knew very well what it was to Act as a Justice of Peace! Even Signing a Paper which he cou'd not Read. But their Affidavits were drawn up for them. And they Swore them upon Content. Their Director (mention'd in my last) said, he did not Swear himself, but that he had those who would Swear as he Instructed them, either more or Less.

For Witnesses, like Watches, go,
Just as they'r set, too Fast or Slow.

(8.) Mr. Tendel the Mayor of Oakhampton, who himself had Sign'd the Certificat, Came in as an Evidence against these Clergy-Men who had Sign'd with him. But he Swore more Cautiously than the Journey-Men-Swearers, and said not they Sign'd as Justices of the Peace. But then he put in a Stroak which might insinuate some Contrivance in the matter, and said that the Paper was Ready Written. As if it had been Concerted beforehand,

and brought thither Ready Drawn up. Whereas the Captain tore a Piece of Paper out of his Pocket-Book, and wrote the Certificat there upon the Table before all the Company. And indeed the Wording of the Certificat shews it to be an Extempore business, and not much Thought employ'd about it.

Mr. Tendel being Tax'd with this, how he Cou'd Swear the Paper was Ready Written, Deny'd it, and said, *Shore I's never Zed Zick a Word.* But the Copy of his Affidavit being Appeal'd to, he Answer'd, *Whay then an I's did Zea Zo, I's d'a think ch' were bewhivered.* That is, I suppose, Bewitched or some such thing.

(9.) There are several other Particulars in the Account I have of this Prosecution, and the Management of it, which are too Long to insert here. It would make a Narrative, and fit to be Added to Sr. Roger L'Estrange his Brief History of the Times. And would Equal any Story there, for the Malice of the Contrivance, the Contradictory Perjuries, and the Manifest Detection of them.

(10.) Had this Plot taken Effect, it would have Quite Ruin'd these two Clergy-Men, at least one of them, who must have Sunk under a Fine of five Hundred Pounds, the Penalty of Acting as Justices of the Peace. And if the Certificat had not been so Providentially Recover'd, they had Witnesses Prepar'd to have Sworn through an Inch-Board.

(11.) And whether this would not have Influenc'd Elections, and was not so Intended, let the World Judge. For who, after this, Durst have Voted Contrary to WHIGG-Inclinations, when they had seen two Clergy-Men thus Oppress'd, and Sworn into Prison by a Set of Perjur'd Affidavit-Men, of the vilest Characters, and the Scum of the People? Who if they had Succeeded in this, might have been Erected into an Affidavit-Office, and serv'd more Purposes than One. No man Cou'd see the End of it. So that I think the Detection of this Plot has Prov'd of Publick Service, and Benefit to the Nation.

(12.) But if we will not take Warning, and Consider what Sort of Men we have among us, and what the Whiggs can submit to, to Carry on their Designs, even what they have done, and in Probability ever will do, for they are not Chang'd since the Last Age, except to the Worse, I say, if we Look not after them, and be Aware of them, we may see this Instance of Perjury follow'd by others of Greater moment And no Man will be Safe.

ERRATA.

In last Wednesdays Col. 3. l. 66. read Tool.

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